

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for blacking components, ~~characterized in that the method comprising:~~ subjecting the surface is subjected to a heat treatment with simultaneous administration of a carbon-emitting medium inside a processing space ~~(1)~~.
2. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the heat treatment takes place at low pressure.
3. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a low pressure from 0.01 mbar to 100 mbar is applied.
4. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ preferably wherein a low pressure from 0.1 mbar to 15 mbar is applied.
5. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the heat treatment is conducted at a temperature from 200° C to 700° C.
6. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ preferably wherein the heat treatment is conducted at a temperature from 300° C to 570° C.
7. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that the heat treatment especially~~ preferably wherein the heat treatment takes place at a temperature from 350° C to 475° C.
8. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a regulation of ~~the~~ a processing time takes place as a function of temperature and/or pressure.
9. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein ~~the~~ a carbon content is regulated inside the processing space as a function of temperature.
10. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the carbon-emitting medium is administered in the form of a gas.

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 9~~, characterized ~~in that~~wherein the carbon-emitting medium is administered in the form of a liquid.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 11~~, characterized ~~in that~~wherein hydrocarbons, especially acetylene and/or carbon monoxide are administered as a carbon-emitting medium.

13. (Currently Amended) Device for subjecting a surface to a heat treatment with simultaneous administration of a carbon-emitting medium inside a processing space~~implementing the method according to Claims 1 to 12 with~~, the device comprising: a heatable processing space (1) and a device for regulated feeding (5) of the carbon-emitting medium.

14. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 13, characterized ~~in that~~wherein the processing space (1) is evacuable.

15. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 14, characterized ~~in that~~wherein a vacuum pump (4) is provided for evacuation.

16. (Currently Amended) Device ~~in accordance with one of Claims 12 to 15~~according to Claim 12, characterized ~~in that~~further comprising a monitoring device (6) for the carbon content in ~~the an~~ atmosphere of the processing space (1) is provided for regulated feeding of the carbon-emitting medium.

17. (Currently Amended) Device ~~in accordance with one of Claims 12 to 16~~according to Claim 12, characterized ~~in that~~wherein the processing space (1) is a furnace.

18. (Currently Amended) Device ~~in accordance with~~according to Claim 17, characterized ~~in that~~wherein the furnace has a liner.

19. (Currently Amended) Device according to Claim 18, characterized ~~in that~~wherein the liner is interchangeable.

20. (New) Method according to Claim 12, wherein the hydrocarbons are acetylene and/or carbon monoxide.